

Operating the Helicopter

WAC 296-829-400

Summary

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To make sure helicopters are operated safely

You must

Hold daily briefings WAC 296-829-40005	400-2
Make sure employees are dressed correctly WAC 296-829-40010	400-2
Make sure loads are attached correctly WAC 296-829-40015	400-3
Make sure the load is handled correctly WAC 296-829-40020	400-4





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Rule

WAC 296-829-40005

Hold daily briefings

You must

- Make sure the helicopter pilot and ground personnel hold a briefing before each day's operation to discuss cargo-handling plans.

WAC 296-829-40010

Make sure employees are dressed correctly

You must

- Make sure employees receiving the load:
 - Do **not** wear loose-fitting clothes that could snag on the hoist line.
 - Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including complete eye protection and hard hats that are secured by chin straps.



Reference:

For other requirements relating to PPE, see WAC 296-800-160 in the Safety and Health Core Rules.

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Rule

WAC 296-829-40015

Make sure loads are attached correctly

You must

- Make sure loads are properly slung so tag lines can't be drawn up into rotors.
- Make sure precautions are taken on all freely suspended loads to keep hand splices from spinning open or cable clamps from loosening, such as using pressed sleeves or swaged eyes.
- Make sure the weight of the load doesn't exceed the manufacturer's load ratings.
- Make sure hoist wires and other gear are **not** attached to or allowed to catch on any fixed structure.



Exemption:

This requirement doesn't apply to pulling lines or conductors that "pay out" from a container or reel.





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Rule

WAC 296-829-40020

Make sure the load is handled correctly

You must

- Make sure signal systems, whether radio or hand signals, are checked before hoisting the load:
 - When using hand signals, use those shown in Figure 1.
- Make sure workers on the ground do **either** of the following before touching the suspended load:
 - Use a ground device to safely discharge any static charge
 - or**
 - Put on and wear rubber gloves.
- Make sure there are enough employees for safe loading and unloading operations.
- Make sure constant communications are maintained between the pilot and signal person:
 - The signal person must be distinctly recognizable from other ground personnel.

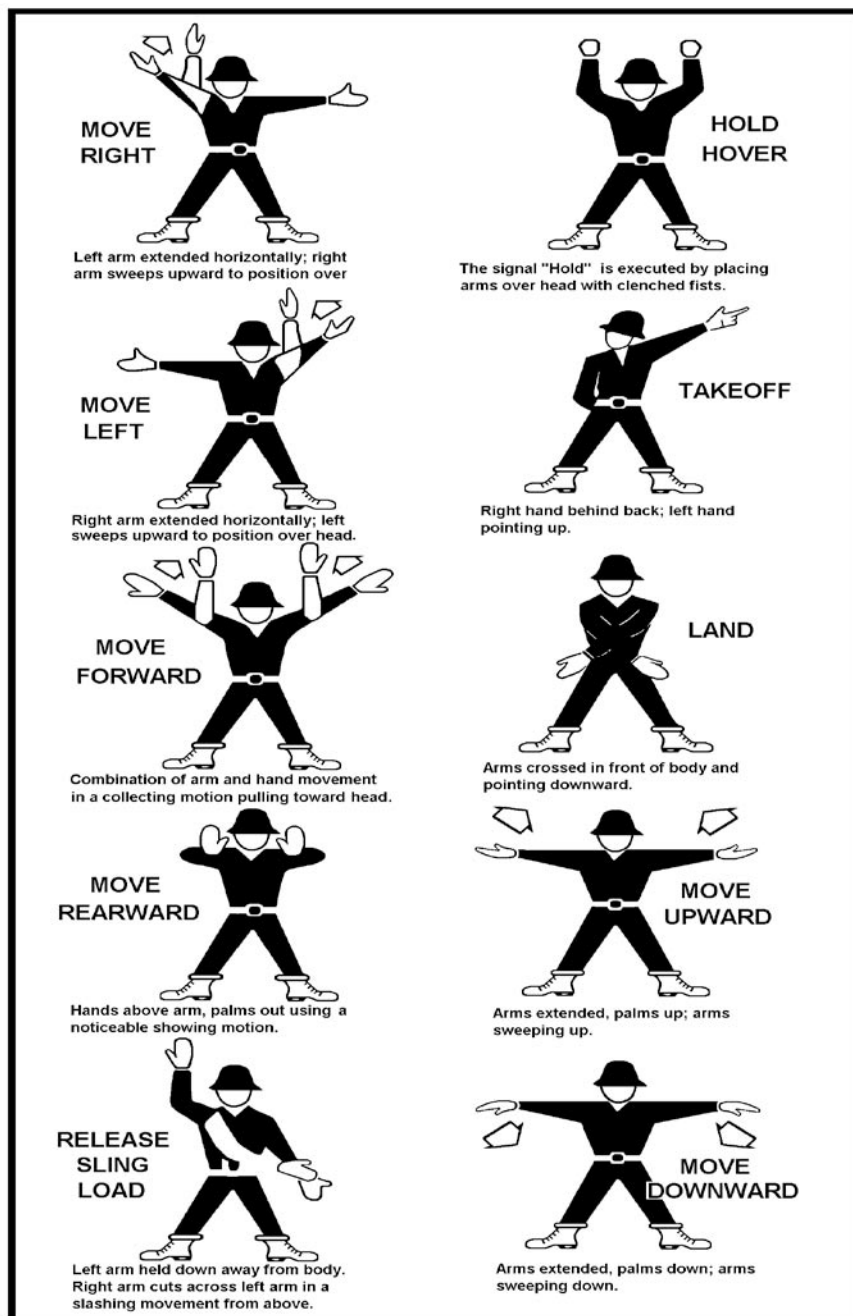
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Rule

WAC 296-829-40020 (Continued)

Figure 1
Helicopter Hand Signals



Notes
